

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are currently pending. In an Office Action dated November 24, 2006, the Examiner states that the Applicant has not submitted an Oath in the Application. In response, Applicant submits an Oath with this Response. The Examiner also requires Applicant to elect a single invention to which the claims shall be restricted under 35 U.S.C. 121.

Particularly, the Examiner identifies:

Species I of Figure 1, Claims 9 and 24-26; and

Species II of Figure 20, Claims 27-28.

In reply to the restriction requirement, Applicants herein elect Species I, Claims 9 and 24-26, with sub-species claims 19, 22, 34-38, and 40, and generic claims 1-8, 10-18, 20-21, 23, 29-33, and 39, being readable on the elected Species I. This election is made with traverse of the non-allowance of any linking claim.

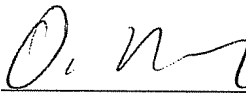
Applicants reserve the right to pursue the withdrawn claims in a related application(s) without prejudice. Prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested. The foregoing is believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below-listed phone number regarding this Response or otherwise concerning the present application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any necessary extension of time required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.136(a) or 1.136(b) which may be required for entry and consideration of the present Reply.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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